

Maryland test scores nation's most improved

July 16, 2012

[Liz Farmer](#)

Examiner Staff Writer

The Washington Examiner

Herbert Hoover Middle School in Potomac, Maryland is shown. A new Harvard University study shows that Maryland tops the nation in terms of student improvement. (Greg Whitesell/Examiner file)

Maryland tops the nation in student improvement, making it a trendsetter for the rest of the country, according to a Harvard University study released Monday.

"If the United States had moved at the same rate as Maryland, it would have been moving at the same rate as some of the fastest-improving countries in the world," said Paul Peterson, one of three authors on the study produced by Harvard's Program on Education Policy and Governance and the journal Education Next. "We certainly could have made some serious strides in the U.S., as other world leaders have been."

Average math, science and reading test scores of fourth- and eighth-grade students in Maryland improved by an average of 3.33 percent each year from 1992 to 2011, the study found. The progress vaulted Maryland's average test score rank from 26th in 1992 to fifth in 2011, out of 41 states. Virginia scores improved by 2.64 percent per year, placing the commonwealth's growth rate at 10th. Virginia's average scores moved from 18th to ninth during the same period.

Source: Harvard Program on Education Policy